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Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:AJRIMAS:DAP
APPROVED BY EB/AN:WBCOBB
CAB - F. MURPHY
NEA/EGY - G. BROWN
---------- 087912
R 062113Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EG

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TWA TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

REF: STATE 128041; STATE 115288; CAIRO 4792

1. WITH RESPECT TO IMPENDING TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS ON TWA IN EGYPT, AIRLINE HAS REQUESTED "STRONG REPRESENTATIONS ON OUR BEHALF BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AT EARLIEST PRACTICAL DATE." NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTINGS (AS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY CARROLL) ARE DEEMED FEASIBLE BY TWA HEADQUARTERS AT THIS TIME.

2. TWA HAS FURTHER INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT IF TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED ON JUNE 30, AIRLINE WOULD PROBABLY SUSPEND CAIRO OPERATIONS ON AFFECTED DAYS, THUS REDUCING SERVICE FROM DAILY TO THRICE WEEKLY. TWA POINTS OUT THAT INDUSTRY SCHEDULES SHOW THAT TWA'S TRAFFIC WOULD NOT GO TO EGYPTIAN BUT TO THIRD COUNTRY CARRIERS. THIS ILLUSTRATED PARA 3.
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3. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL AIRLINE GUIDE, MAY 1975 EDITION, AS OF JULY 1, 1975 EGYPTAIR WILL NOT OPERATE ON MONDAYS BETWEEN CAIRO AND ATHENS. IF TWA DROPS OUT, ITS

TRAFFIC WILL BE PICKED UP BY THE REMAINING 5 THIRD COUNTRY CARRIERS OFFERING SIMILAR SERVICE.ON FRIDAYS, THERE WILL BE FOUR THIRD COUNTRY CARRIERS OFFERING SERVICE FROM CAIRO TO ATHENS BETWEEN TWA DEPARTURE AT 0835 AND EGYPTAIR DEPARTURE AT 1445. FROM ATHENS TO CAIRO THERE WILL BE TWO THIRD COUNTRY CARRIER FLIGHTS BETWEEN TWA DEPARTURE AT 1545 AND EGYPTAIR'S AT 2245. FROM CAIRO TO ROME ON TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS ALITALIA'S FLIGHT DEPARTING AT 0910 PRESUMABLY WOULD OFFER MORE COMPETITION TO EGYPTAIR'SFLIGHTS DEPARTING AT 1030 THAN WOULD TWA'S 0835 FLIGHT. FROM ROME TO CAIRO ON TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS. ALITALIA'S 1725 DEPARTURE WOULD BE MORE COMPETITIVE WITH EGYPTAIR'S FLIGHTS DEPARTING AT 1915 OR 1805 THAN TWA'S 1205 FLIGHT.

4. IN VIEW KENNETH BRIGG'S ARRIVAL DURING WEEK OF JUNE 9 (POSTPONED FROM WEEK OF JUNE 2) EMBASSY MAY WISH TO COORDINATE WITH HIM AND CARROLL AND TO ASSIST TWA REPS AS APPROPRIATE IN PRESENTING ABOVE ARGUMENTS TO APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO IMPRESS UPON EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES THAT USG VIEWS POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN ACTION TO RESTRICT TWA TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH CIVAIR BILATERAL AND THAT BASED ON ABOVE EVIDENCE EGYPTIAN RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISH-ING PURPORTED EGYPTIAN GOAL OF PROTECTING EGYPTAIR TRAF-FIC. KISSINGER

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